

DISSERTATION

In Vindication of the ANTIQUITY of

STONE HENGE,

In Answer to the TREATISES of
Mr. *Inigo Jones*, Dr. *Charleton*, and all
that have written upon that Subject.

By a Clergyman living in the Neighbour-
hood of that Famous Monument of
ANTIQUITY.

S A R U M:

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NOTATION

STONE HENCK

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A
D I S S E R T A T I O N
 In Vindication of the ANTIQUITY of
STONE HENGE,

In Answer to a TREATISE written by
 Dr. CHARLTON,

Entitled,

*Choræ Gigantum: Or, Stone Henge
 restor'd to the DANES.*

S T O N E H E N G E is one of those
 Monuments of Antiquity, that has,
 for many Ages, out-liv'd the Memory of
 its Founders, insomuch that the various
 and uncertain Accounts which have been
 given of it from the eldest Times, serve

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but

but more apparently to shew its Foundation to have been immemorial, and vastly antecedent to the vulgar Accounts generally given of it.

As first the ancient Fable of its magical Erection, and the very different Conjectures of the eldest Writers concerning the original Design, and use of its Structure.

The first Account we have of it in history, is, from *Jeffrey of Monmouth*, a bishop of *St. Asaph*, who in the Reign of King *Stephen* wrote in *Latin*, the *Brittish* History from *Brutus*, the first *Brittish* King, building most of his Account of those early times (as he tells us) upon an antient MS. written in the *Brittish* tongue, which *Walter Mapæus*, Archdeacon of *Oxford*, brought with him from *Armorica*, and which carry'd with it, thro'out, the most authentick Notes of the highest Antiquity. Whereunto he added much upon the Tradition of the old Songs, and Verses of the antient *Bardi*, which had never been collected into written History before.

before. * Now the Tradition he delivers us concerning the Foundation of *Stone-Henge* is, that it was erected by the counsel of *Merlin*, at the Command of *Aurelius Ambrosius*, the last *Roman-British* King, in memory of those CCCCLX noble *Brittans* that were treacherously murdered by the Artifice of *Hengeſt* the *Saxon*.

The next is from *Polydor Virgil*: who, for his Assistance in writing his History, was supply'd with most of the antient MSS. that were found in the Monastries at their Dissolution (which we are told, were by him, after his perusal, destroy'd) he recounting the memorable Actions of the Wars between the *Saxons* and the *Old Brittans* under the Conduct of *Aurelius Ambrosius*, expressly affirms it as a memorable Truth, that the *Brittans*, to per-

* There could be no certain Tradition concerning *British* Monuments, among the *Saxons*, but only in *Wales*, among the Relicks of the *Old Brittans*, who were all finally driven thither by the *Saxons*: and 'tis sufficient for our purpose that the Name of *Stonehenge* was any how celebrated among them.

petuate the Fame of his noble Achievements for the Liberty and Good of his Country, erected a magnificent Sepulchre of great square Stones, in the Form of a Crown, in that very place where he was slain in battle, that the Fortitude of so noble a Chieftain might be recorded to Posterity. Which Monument, he tells us, is yet remaining in the Diocese of *Salisbury*, near a Town call'd *Amsbury*. Now what might give sufficient Foundation to this Conjecture is, that *Jeffery* of *Monmouth*, as expressly tells us, that *Aurelius Ambrosius* was, by his own Appointment in his Life-time, after his death bury'd there, near the Convent of Monks, within the Giants Dance, which in his life-time he had commanded to be erected.

A third Account we meet with pretending to a much elder Antiquity, and even so ancient, that we can have no certain Record in *Brittish* History, is, that *Stonehenge* was built by the Old *Brittans* as a sepulchral Monument for their Great Heroine *Boadicea*, Dowager of *Prasutagus*.
King

King of the *Sceni* : who with all her principal Nobility and a numerous Army, were overthrown in battle by the *Romans* under the Command of *Suetonius* and *Paulinus*, &c. What Authority the Author of this Report can found it on, besides that one Passage in *Dion Cassius*, which, in relation to her magnificent Funeral, he cites, (*Brittani humaverunt eam honorifice*) is, I acknowledge with the Doctor, very uncertain.

But Mr. *Inigo Jones* (a famous Architect in the Reign of King *James I*) who went purposely to survey *Stonebenge*, and wrote a whole Folio Volume on this Subject, will not have it a sepulchral Monument, but chiefly, as he tells us, from a large Stone 16 Foot long, and 4 broad (now sunk equal with the Surface of the Earth, and by its exact Position Eastward after the Manner of an Altar) imagines it to have been a Roman Temple : when alas (says the Doctor, there is not one Idea of the *Roman* Architecture, nor so much

much as the Image of a *Roman* Temple to be found about it.

But who (after rejecting the old Traditions, and the Authority of the most ancient Historians: and then exploding the Judgment of so celebrated an Architect as *Mr. Jones*, whose Scheme he ridicules with the opprobrious Term, of a meer phantastical building) would have thought *Dr. Charleton* would have rear'd one more entirely phantastical, without any solid Foundation in the Knowledge of Antiquity, a meer Castle in the Air, of his own Imagination?

His Volume indeed is less than that which he so greatly ridicules, and so there is likewise less of Satisfaction or Ingenuity to be found in it: notwithstanding that he ushers it into the World with a more pompous and swelling Title: stiling it *Chorea Gigantum: Or, The most famous Antiquity of Great Brittan, Stoneheng restor'd to the Danes.*

But

But then if it be so famous as to be the most famous Antiquity of *Great Brittan*, why shou'd he then detract so much from its true Fame? Or of so famous Antiquity, from its real Antiquity, as to make it almost modern? and, without any Authority, against all Sense and Reason, labour, with so much pains, to prove it (in comparison of its true Antiquity) a novel Work of the *Danes*? when indeed its immemorial Antiquity more plainly confutes every Argument he brings for it, and the History of those Times (wherein he would make us believe it was first erected) assures us with more Reason to believe that *Stonehenge* was rather destroy'd by the *Danes*, than that it could ever have been built by them. *

For

* The *Danes* were every where most inhumanly barbarous, and seem'd with the greatest Fury to pursue the Clergy, Churches, and Religious Houses: They destroy'd the Abbot with all the Monks of *Croyland*, burning the Abby: With the like Severity they rag'd against *Bradny*, *Peterborough* and *Huntington*; murdering the Monks, ravishing the Nuns, and firing their Houses. *Winton* Cathedral they destroy'd to the Ground, and
(repen-

For the first coming of the *Danes* into *Wilts*, was *A. D.* 871 in the first Year of the Reign of King *Alfred*: who encounter'd their whole Army at *Wilton*, and put them to flight: but unwarily pursuing the Rout, gave them the advantage of Rallying again, and in the End to become Masters of all *Wiltshire*: which they kept so entirely in their Possession for two Years, that King *Alfred* and his Nobles were forc'd to fly for protection to the *Woods* and *Fenns* in *Somersetshire*, where in a sort of Island call'd *Æthelny* the King lay all that time conceal'd, nor dar'd look them in the Face till in the Habit of a Fidler he first visited their Camp at *Edington*, and taking advantage of their Security and Disorder,

(repentine Monasterium intrantes, Monachos universos, non unus superfuit, trucidarunt) says the Historian *Radbord*. At *Canterbury* they were not altogether so severe, for upon Decimation, they contented themselves only with the lives of the A. Bp *Elphegus*, putting nine to the Sword, and suffering each tenth Person to escape; insomuch, that thro'out the whole City, consisting of 5236 Persons (says the Hist.) 804 were only suffer'd to live. The Story of the Nuns of *Goldbengham* is too famous to need mention. After the Victory at *Wilton*, with incredible other Barbarities, they murdered *Headmundus* Bp. of *Sherborn* at *Meredune*; all which to recount would require a Volume.

presently

presently after instructed by a Vision, rais'd Forces and defeated them, *A. D.* 879 *.

Now this being the cheif Time of their Ravaging in *Wilt*s, must be the most proper opportunity, while they had a sufficient Number of idle Hands, and a sufficient time to apply them to such a Work (in imitation of the *Romans* before them, in *Brittan*, who wou'd never suffer their Army to lye idle, but employ them any how to keep them in Action) for the erecting of this Pile of Buiding. But if it had been now, or ever after this time erected (if we cou'd suppose an Edifice that carrys so apparent Tokens of the rude antique Model of much elder Times in its Front) the Historians of this Age, who were many, or the *Monks* of the neighbouring Cloisters, who take Notice of every Moanstry, Castle and

* Not that King *Alfred* lay all this time idle, but perceiving the incredible increase of the *Danes* coming into the Kingdom from every Port, he judg'd the best Method to deal with them was, by preventing their Landing, and by rigging forth his Fleet, to Engage them at Sea, which he now did, and obtain'd many Victories over them, as *After* records at large.

Structure of less Moment, wou'd never have past by so remarkable a Pile of Building as this in Silence.

They tell us of the many barbarous Destructions and Desolations then wrought by the *Danes*, of several *Bishops*, *Abbots* and *Ecclesiastics* of all Sorts slain in Battle, or barbarously in cold blood Slaughter'd by them: or the cities, towns, villages and many religious Houses then pillag'd, plunder'd and set on fire, but not one Word of any thing built, or erected by them.

Among several Writers of this Age now flourish'd the famous Chronologist * *Asser*, a learned *Brittan*, invited as he tells

* There were 2 of this name *Cotemporarys* at this time entertain'd in the Court of King *Alfred*, Uncle and Nephew, the former who wrote the Life of the King, was call'd *Asser Menevensis* Bishop of *St. Davids*, the later *Godwyn* tells us was Bishop of *Sarum*, and wrote the Chronology of his Time living to the Year 909. Among the Books wrote by King *Alfred*, Sir *H. Spelman* tells us in his Life, was a Collection of Chronologys, and a translation of *Bedes* History. So that the King himself being an Historian, one wou'd think this Work of the *Danes* (had there been any such) might not have been unworthy of his own Observation. But why was it not noted by the *Saxon* Chronologist, or in the Registers of *Wilton*, *Hyde*, *Abby*, and many more which are yet Extant?

us, by King *Alfred* to live with him in his Court, and to assist him in his Studies, being in a few years after this, by him made Bishop of *Salisbury*, whose Authority is by the best Historians cited, as the most Authentic, in relation to the *Danish* transactions here, as having been himself a Spectator and Eye-witness of the most Memorable of them. Wherefore, if (according to the Doctor's supposition) *Stonehenge* was now erecting, or built by the *Danes*, in his Diocese, and within 5 Miles of Old *Sarum*, the very Place of his chief Residence, most wonderful it is to suppose that he shou'd make no mention of so famous a Structure, nor of the end and purpose why it was Erected by them. Neither is his Silence concerning it any Argument to prove it was not then standing, from antient Times, any more than the like Neglect of many succeeding Historians has been since, who pass it by as a rude Monument of times Immemorial, and of which they can give us no certain tolerable Account.

Now the Foundation of the Doctor's whole argument to prove it erected by the *Danes*, is only from the like structures now to be seen in *Danemark* correspondent with that of *Stonehenge*. Of which *Olaus Wormius* a modern Historian, in *Monumentis Danicis*, has exhibited great variety, and for various ends and purposes Erected some Sepulchral, others Trophies of Victory, others for Places of Combat: But those of the largest dimensions were for Parliamentary Courts, and for the Election and Inauguration of Kings, which were held in so high esteem and veneration, that the candidate King was, *de jure*, oblig'd there to receive his solemn inauguration, and assume the Ensigns of Royalty, as if the very Place and Ceremonies were essential Parts of his right to Sovereignty, and the Votes of his Electors much more valid and authentic, for being pronounc'd in that *Forum*.

And to authorise this, which might otherwise seem *Romantic*, He tells us that
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he is provided with a Text out of a very faithful and grave Writer of that Nation *Suavingius*, which gave him the first hint for his conjecture touching the End, or Purpose for which *Stonebenge* was Built. The Text is this, *Locum publicæ Regiæ Electionis postquam incolis convenientem, ad quem, nulla obstante itineris difficultate, omnes qui erant vocati, venire possent, Eligissent, Saxa grandia singulari opera atq; studio conquiri, atq; in eundem locum, quem electioni Regiæ destinarent, comportari curarunt. Neque enim tum quemadmodum hodie destinata electioni regum certa erant loca, sed pro arbitrio; sententiaq; eorum qui auctoritate, & potentia alios antecellebant, Eligebantur. Huc comportata Saxa Conscendentes hi, quibus Eligendi jus commendatum erat, circumstanti populo suffragia ex ijs ferebant.*

Whereupon he infers, with great Stress Argumentation, that because by the *Danes* in their own Country, when a King of theirs was to be Elected, and a convenient Place

Place for his Election assign'd, care was taken that Stones of an extraordinary bigness shou'd be found and brought together to the end that those who had the Power of Electing might ascend on them, and thence deliver their Suffrages to the People, standing below them: Therefore it must follow in Consequence that the *Danes* at their first coming into *Wiltshire* must be the Builders of *Stonehenge* and erected it for the same end.

So that the first thing here to be consider'd is, What proportion or similitude the Collection of such a number of large rude Stones, however rang'd together, and only to serve the Conveniency of Electors to stand upon, in order to give their Suffrages, from their eminence, in chusing a King, can bear to *Stonehenge*, a regular Pile of tall Columns, of above 20 Foot high, and after a most exquisite manner disposed, Circle within Circle, crown'd with Architraves tennon'd and Mortis'd together, after a Model, of which the *Danes* had no Pattern

tern in their own Country, nor any Structure, of the like Nature, to be compar'd with it, either for Magnitude of Stones, Number, or Artifice, in their Composition.

Again to what purpose shou'd the *Danes*, now engag'd in so busy a War, expos'd themselves to so great Pains, and Hazard, in bringing these Stones from above 20 Miles distance, and erect them in so new and beautiful a Manner, beyond any thing in their own Country, to elect a King, when then they wanted no King to elect, nor ever elected one afterwards in this Nation that we could ever hear or read of.

For now instead of wanting to elect a King, they had at least one at the Head of each of their Armies: Besides *Higuar*, and *Hubba*, at their first landing in the Kingdom of the East Angles, we find upon their Descent into *Barksbire*, *Bagseg*, and *Halden*, which arrived with a new Flood of *Danes* 871. Again 874 we read of another excessive Inundation of them
under

under three Kings more, *Gothrum*, *Oscitel*, and *Amund*. And among these kings we read of so little Competition, or Design of usurping the Sovereignty, one, over the rest, that they divided themselves into as many Counties, to conquer only the *Saxons*, and each, for a long time, to be content with their own Conquests in the several Territories of the Heptarchy. So far were they, at their first coming, from a Design of electing one Sovereign King over the whole Island.

Not to insist upon the little Vacancy of Time they might now find for the undertaking of so great a Work, with a continual preparation for War upon their hands: For altho' King *Alfred* did not personally appear against them in the Field, yet they met with frequent Skirmishes and Oppositions from the *West Saxons*: insomuch that the next Year they were forc'd, by Agreement, to leave *Wiltshire*, and retire into *Mercia*; and wintering at *London*, they from thence march'd to *Torksey*, A.
Dom.

Dom. 873. And from thence to *Repton*, in *Darbyshire*; where, notwithstanding the Peace concluded with *Barrbed King* of *Mercia*, they made Havock of his kingdom, wintering there, and at last expell'd him A. D. 874: Returning the following Year into the Country of the *Northumbrians*, where soon repossessing themselves of what they had conquered before, they very amicably divided it among themselves.

Now this being a succinct History of the *Danish* Army that invaded *Wilts.* and the whole Interval that the Doctor allows for the erecting of *Stonehenge*, I cannot find that the *Danes* had sufficient leisure for such a Work. For we are not to imagine, that old *Brittish Merlin* return'd again to their Assistance, or was ready at the Importunity of the *Danes*, to bring hither these Stones from the *Giant's Dance* in *Ireland*. Nor could they rise out of the Ground, like Mushrooms in the night. I allow indeed with the Doctor that they

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might

might possibly be brought from *Rockley*, *Albury*, (or what will be some Miles nearer) *Marlborough* Forest, but then that will be at least 20 Miles from the Place where they now stand. And moreover, supposing they were so well vers'd in the Use of the Leaver, Roller, Wheel, Pulley, Wedge and Screw, (which we can hardly suppose to be then so well known in *England*) yet the prodigious Carriages they must have fram'd for their Transportation, and the monstrous Machines for raising them out of the Ground, could not possibly have been provided, in such Silence, and Obscurity, but the Historians of that Age must have taken notice of things so deservedly remarkable, and more especially so faithful a one as *Asser*, who was then writing within a few Miles of the Place.

'Twere easy enough to explode the Doctor's whole Scheme, and ridicule it, as merrily, as he has done that of Mr. *Inigo Jones*: and to shew that the Doctor was only fond of some great new Discovery he thought

thought he had made from *Olaus Wormius*, but truly understood neither the Antiquity of *Stonehenge*, nor the Times of the *Danish* Invasion, and least of all the Historians of those Times, nor how near them *Jeffery of Monmouth* wrote his History; whose Veracity cannot be suspected in this Particular, nor the simple Account he has given of it from the Tradition of the Old *Brittans*, unless it be to prove *Stonehenge* yet of much elder Date than either Tradition, or the Songs of the *Bardi*, or the History of *Walter Mapæus*, could give him any true Light into.

Considering his Character of a Prelate, and of no inconsiderable Erudition in those Days, he must have been very simple, and insincere, indeed, to have ascrib'd it to *Aurelius Ambrosius*, if it had been then of modern Erection, and to have made it a sepulchral Monument, when at that time there were so many alive, who, either from their Fathers, or Grandfathers, cou'd by a more certain Tradition have informed him

better, and that it had been erected by the *Danes* for the Election of Kings, or for a Royal Parliamentary Court, where both themselves, and their Forefathers must have been conven'd for the same Purposes.

For *Knute*, the first *Danish* King, must then have been (according to the Doctor's Account) elected there, *A. D.* 1017, which was but 153 Years before the Time of his writing his History; and considering that he came to his Bishoprick 19 Years before, *An.* 1151, this must make him to have been born at least within a Century of this suppos'd Election. And hard it would be to suppose an industrious inquisitive historian to have heard nothing of so memorable Courts, and Elections, in so famous a Place, or to have ascrib'd the Erection of so novel a *Danish* Edifice for a Monument of 700 Years Antiquity, even before his own time.

Nay much it would have been if succeeding (e) Writers about that time, who were numerous, and might have been better inform'd, had not exploded so gross an Error. But we never read of one of them that ever contradicted that Account in the Behalf of the *Danes*, nor any Historian now, for above 600 Years after, till the Doctor himself, ever entertain'd so much as a Suspicion that the *Danes* were ever concern'd in it.

And here I cannot but take notice of the Reflection he makes upon a certain Table or Plate of Metal found near *Stonehenge* in the Reign of *Henry VIII.* on which he says were engraven such strange Characters, which neither *Sir Tho. Eliot*,

(e) *Giraldus Cambrensis* was his Cotemporary ; and tho' he cavill'd about some Particulars, yet follow'd him in the more material Parts of his History, but he never ridicul'd him for mistaking a novel *Danish* Pile for an Old *Brittish* Antiquity : Differing only in this, that the one records it for a sepulchral Monument erected by *Aurelius Ambrosius* in memory of 460 noble *Brittans*, &c. and the other, that it was erected by the *Brittans*, for a honourable Memorial of him, because, as both agree, he was bury'd there.

nor Mr. *Lilly*, the learned Master of *St. Paul's*, great Linguists, could read, nor were careful to preserve, because he thence infers those barbarous Characters must be *Literæ Runicæ, sive Gothicæ*, which were constantly us'd by the *Danes* in their monumental Inscriptions. Now who-so-ever has seen the Characters of that Language, and considers how many Letters in that Alphabet are agreeable with our own, must certainly conclude that those very Characters (if they had been *Gothic*) to those wise Men, would not have seem'd barbarous, but rather perfect Indices, that they were *Europæan*, and might have directed their Application, whereby they might soon, thro' sufficient Enquiry, have easily found out the Nation to whom they might peculiarly belong. But then if they were so very barbarous as to be utterly unknown to those learned Gentlemen, we have more Reason to conclude that they belong'd to elder Ages of more remote Antiquity, even beyond *Greek* or
Roman

Roman, and perhaps coequal with the true
 Erection of *Stone-henge*: as the Learned
 Antiquary Mr. *Samms* in his *Britannia*
 contends for in his History of *Stonehenge*,
 p. 398. Where taking notice of this very
 Plate compos'd of Lead and Tin, argues
 its Composure to have been *Phœnician*,
 and the Characters *Phœnician*, which had
 they been *Gothic*, he says those learned
 Men could not have been ignorant of.
 And therefore concludes, saying, These
 are Motives that induce me to believe this
 Monument ancients than the *Romans*,
 seeing that neither the *Romans*, who have
 recorded Things of less moment to their
 Advantage, nor any succeeding Authors,
 after them, have made any Mention of so
 famous a Work, but on the contrary, what
 we find of it is involv'd in Fables of Gi-
 ants, which in my Judgment more proper-
 ly belongs to the *Phœnicians*, than the
Romans.

To conclude. Cou'd we admit of the
 Doctor's argument for the Erection of
Stone-

Stonehenge, by the *Danes*, founded only upon his singular Conceit from simular Buildings in *Danemark*, without any other ancient Authority whatever, thereby overthrowing the Authority of an ancient Prelate of 600 Years standing, and that built upon an ancient *Brittish* MS. of undoubted Antiquity, perhaps bearing as many more, and establish'd by the Traditions of the Old *Brittish Bardi*, nor ever question'd or contradicted by any of his * Cotemporary Writers, but confirm'd since by *Polydor Virgil* who had the Perusal of all the *Monastic* Writers, who had undoubtedly recorded all things Memorable that came to their Knowledge, from the Foundation of their Houses, and by them no mention made of any Structure of the *Danes*, the Building of *Stonehenge* must then certainly stand upon its ancient Foundation, and then the *Danes* can be allow'd to have had no hand therein.

* *Vid.* Note (e).

For by the same Method of arguing, had the Doctor happen'd to light upon the History of *Scotland*, instead of that of *Olaus Wormius*, and there read of a like * Structure (but in all Particulars more parallel) with *Stone-henge*, and suppos'd to be coequal with it, he might with as much Truth have fancy'd the *Scots* or the *Picts* to have been Founders of *Stone-henge*, or that the *Danes* also had built the same in *Scotland*, whom we never read to have made their Excursions so far, to pil-lage and plunder, and to be sure never went thither to build Castles in the Air.

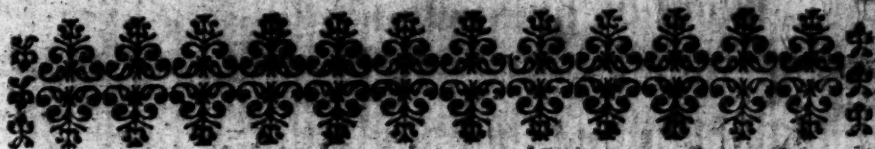
But seeing he was so fond of the History of *Olaus Wormius*, and thought that

* Hard by this Wall, as the River *Carron* crosseth the Sheriffdom of *Sterling*, towards the Left Hand are seen 2 Mounts, which they call *Duni Pacis*, [the Knolls of Peace] and about 2 Miles lower there is an ancient Building 24 Cubits high, and 13 broad, open on the top, fram'd of rough Stone without Lime, having the upper Part of every Stone so tenoned into the neather, as that the whole Work rising by a mutual interlacing and clasping together upholdeth itself. And who does not see the great Analogy and Similitude between *Stone-henge* with this Building? &c.—— Hist. of *Scotland*, p. 28. *Samms Britannia*, p. 369. 397.

he had met with any thing therein comparable with *Stone-benge*, why might he not, with more Justice to Truth, and the Honour of his own Country, have took the good Humour to imagine that the *Danes*, from the Sight of this great Original, had, upon their Return to their own Country, endeavour'd, according to their Abilities, to copy something in imitation of it there? Nay, and with much more Probability he might have presum'd them to have done so, because the Erection of theirs, were not from Times immemorial, but in later Years, when they had Historians to record their Foundation, and the very Use, and Intention for which they were first built was always known.



Chorae



CHORÆA GIGANTUM;

VULGO

STONE-HENGE,

Data sunt ipsis quoque fata sepulchris.



I.

STupendous and amazing Pile!
 Deservedly the wonder of our Isle
 How wert thou rais'd? and when?
 By what bold hand of all the Sons of Men?
 For thy Original's unknown,
 Nor cou'd thy mighty Stones their Found-
 ers Name renown.

D 2

II.

II.

Or say, (when th' Earth's audacious
 Brood
 Invading Heav'n, the Host of Gods with-
 stood,
 And hurl'd with impious Rage on high,
 Huge Hills on Hills, and Rocks against
 the Sky)
 Rear'd by celestial hands wert Thou,
 Amazing Trophies of their victory to show?

III.

Or rather as thy Name imports
 Wert thou the *Titans* Work when at their
 Sports:
 And they, amidst their Dance and Song,
 To shew the World how huge they were,
 and strong,
 This lasting Monument would build,
 To mark the Place, where they their
 mighty Revels held.

IV.

In vain, Time's younger Sons, do we
 Conjectures raise of thy Antiquity:

In

In vain, do we pretend to know
 Who first began thy mighty Pile, or how;
 The Annals of thine Age are lost,
 And thou thy self, almost, art crumbl'd
 into Dust.

V.

So the great Temple, crown'd by Fame,
 Of old erected to the *Ephesian* Dame,
 A Founder had without renown,
 Who dy'd, and left his Name unknown,
 Whilst that of the vile sacrilegious
Danes,
 And its Destroyer, curs'd *Erostratus*, re-
 mains.

VI.

With shew of Reason, Ignorance
 (The Mother of Devotion) makes pretence,
 And wou'd persuade us that, in thee,
 We Ruins of a *Roman* Temple see:
 Fancys an Altar, 'midst thy Dome,
 And consecrates thee to the Heathen Gods
 of *Rome*.

VII.

VII.

Some labour, with as vain intent,
 To make thee a sepulchral Monument,
 Erected on that spacious Plain,
 For *Brittish* Worthies, there, in Battle
 slain:

As others, to preserve the Fame
 Of *Ambrose*, or th' Old *Brittans* great
 Heroic Dame.

VIII.

Of later Criticks there is one
 (Who claims a deeper Sight into a Stone)
 Detracts from thy Antiquity,
 And, model'd from the *Danes*, would
 fancy thee.

But hoary age which sets his mark on
 all,
 Thee plainly shews no Copy, but th' Ori-
 ginal.

IX.

Whether thy Erection were to grace
 The first Election of a Royal Race:

Or

Or thee beneath, in th' open Field,
 Their first judicial Courts the Britains
 held,

From thee, the Danes, the Gauls, the French,
 And rear'd, from thy Land, the like in
 his own Land.

X.

But what thou wert at first,—— how
 wrought,
 Or whence thy vast Gigantic Stones were
 brought,

From foreign, or the neighb'ring ground,
 Fame's Trumpet now has long forgot to
 sound.

All that of thee we certain know
 Is, that thou once wert rais'd, we know
 not when, nor how.

F I N I S.



All that of this we can know
Is that there are some who know
Not when, nor how.

THE END